IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended)   A message filtering circuit used in a distributed control system in which a plurality of nodes are connected to a transmission line, each node controlling components in this node and transmitting messages to other nodes, said message filtering circuit comprising:

a message storing part of taking-in and storing each of said messages transmitted on said transmission line, each of said <u>stored</u> messages including ~~an identifier indicating a~~ <u>at least</u> <u>one</u> message-sending node, ~~and an identifier indicating~~ a message-receiving node ~~or non-~~ ~~designation of a message-receiving node~~ <u>and a condition information accompanying said data</u>;

a registration part for registering data of message-receiving conditions in advance;

at least ~~one~~ <u>two</u> comparison ~~part~~ <u>parts</u> for comparing ~~said identifiers of said condition-~~ ~~identifying portions with said data of message-receiving conditions registered in said~~ ~~registration part~~ <u>a condition data which is registered in advance in said registration part and</u> <u>said identifier stored in said message</u>; and

at least one received-message storing part for storing a taken-in message according to results of said comparison-processing performed in said at least one comparison part and for sending said stored message to an external circuit.

2.   (Original)   A message filtering circuit according to claim 1, wherein a digital signal processor is used for said comparison part.

3.   A message filtering circuit according to claim 1, wherein a programmable logic circuit is used for said comparison part.